

## COATED ELECTROACTIVE BENDER ACTUATOR

An electroactive bender actuator includes one or more electroactive layers disposed at least in part between pairs of spaced electrode layers. At least a portion of the outer surface of the actuator is coated with a coating material in order to enhance the performance of the actuator, reduce the likelihood of electrical shorting between the electrode layers and improve wear resistance. The coating may be applied to the actuator by a vapor deposition, spraying or dipping process. Masking may be used to leave a selected area of the actuator outer surface uncoated.

[illegible]